

# **SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED**

## **CRMP**

(Coordinated Resource Management Planning)

## **COUNCIL**

### **Final Report**

October 1, 1998 – May 31, 1999

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### **Abstract for Final Report for # 98-PC-01**

The Scott River Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) Council represents a variety of community interests in the Scott River watershed. The group presently has 11 active voting members who represent landowners, agencies, and interest groups. The Council seeks to solve local natural resource management problems. During the period from October 1, 1998 to May 31, 1999 seven regular meetings and three special meetings provided a forum for viewpoints to be shared, cooperative actions to be planned, and projects to be prioritized.

The seven CRMP subcommittees have done a variety of planning work related to Water, Upland Management, Fisheries/riparian/habitat, Agriculture, Bylaws, Monitoring, and technical support in prioritizing projects.

The CRMP group sponsored three workshops in this period of time: a session of the Ranch and Watershed Planning Course, a Monitoring Roundtable, and a Fish Faire.

One newsletter was published in January 1999, and several meetings of subwatershed landowner groups were held to establish some historical baselines and to develop project ideas.

A total of \$814,816 of projects have been proposed and notification of funding has been received for \$188,820 of projects.

The feeling of the Coordinator is that the Scott CRMP process is presently very tenuous because of dropping representation and no members willing to take on chair or vice-chair responsibilities on a regular basis.

**SCOTT RIVER WATERSHED CRMP COUNCIL**  
**(Coordinated Resource Management Planning)**

**Final Report**  
**October 1, 1998 –May 31, 1999**

The Scott River Watershed CRMP Council is made up officially of 18 members who represent landowners, agencies, and a cross-section of interest groups in the Scott River watershed. Presently 11 members are attending regularly. The Council, using a consensus process, seeks to solve some of the local natural resource problems by developing plans, by developing restoration projects guided by those plans, and by seeking funding for those projects which are then implemented by the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District (RCD). The process is open to the community at large although they have no voting power unless they become members according to the *Bylaws*.

The CRMP Council is sponsored and administered by the RCD and its operations are partially funded by the Klamath Fisheries Restoration Program under a cooperative agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional funding by the California Department of Conservation has helped throughout the 1998-1999 fiscal year to expand the organizational program to subwatershed landowner groups in the Scott River watershed.

## **BACKGROUND**

The first "official" CRMP meeting was held on September 3, 1992 with monthly meetings being held since then. This is the fifth *CRMP Final Report* to be submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service since the founding of the CRMP. Complete background information can be found in the four previous *Final Reports*. This report covers a time period of eight months, October 1, 1998 to May 31, 1999, the sixth funding cycle provided by the Klamath Fisheries Restoration Program. The Siskiyou RCD identifies the project as CRMP VI.

## **ORGANIZATION AND PROCESS**

### **Membership**

The CRMP Council is officially made up of 18 voting members (see updated membership roster in section #1) of whom 11 are presently active and voting regularly. The Council sought to bring some inactive members back to regular attendance and partially succeeded in that three inactive members had reactivated their memberships last year but, several have dropped out in the last few months due to conflict resulting from inappropriate behavior on the part of a member representative.

The technical advisors to the CRMP, local staff of state and federal resource agencies, continue to attend regularly and assist in subcommittee efforts.

## **Meetings**

The regular meetings of the full CRMP Council are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7 PM alternating between the United Methodist Church in Etna and the Community Center or other location in Fort Jones. Although the CRMP did not hold a regular meeting in December 1998, three extra meetings have been held over this time period, one for project prioritization and two for conflict resolution.

Sometimes a publicized, educational portion of the meeting precedes the business. Meetings are always open to the public. Agendas are prepared in advance with input from all CRMP members and the executive committee, made up of the acting Chair, acting Vice-chair, two CRMP members serving on a rotating basis, and staff. Concise minutes are prepared by the CRMP Project Manager and approved by the membership.

Since no one would serve as either Chair or Vice-chair for the two-year term described in the Bylaws, CRMP members are serving as Chair and Vice-chair on a temporary, rotating basis. The acting Chair currently conducts CRMP Council meetings. The CRMP Coordinator or a CRMP member often takes notes on a wall chart to help minimize misunderstanding. A facilitator was hired to conduct two conflict resolution meetings, one in May and one in June.

## **CRMP Staff**

Three part-time people and one full-time person provide the staffing for the CRMP. The CRMP Project Manager oversees the CRMP's administrative and budget needs, takes notes for the minutes of meetings and types up the agendas. The CRMP Project Manager is also the Siskiyou RCD District Manager. Carolyn Pimentel currently holds this position.

The CRMP Program Coordinator is responsible for "moving the vision" of the CRMP by means of a variety of tasks and strategies (See Section #1 for description of job tasks). Jennifer Davis Marx is the current Coordinator and has held the position since February 1996.

Gary Black has been a CRMP Project Coordinator since May 1995. His task is to coordinate CRMP project implementation through the RCD. Gary's direct involvement in CRMP for the purpose of planning and project development is funded by the Klamath Fisheries Restoration Program; the various projects sponsored by the CRMP and RCD fund most of his position.

Lorrie Bundy has been a project coordinator since April 1997. Since Lorrie has a degree in Environmental Engineering and Math Analysis, she takes responsibility for many of the technical aspects of the planning process and projects such as monitoring and fish screen design.

The RCD has recently hired another project coordinator, Warren Farnam, a recent graduate of Chico State, to help implement the many projects which have been funded. Warren's efforts will be focused on upland sediment reduction projects and water conservation through improving irrigation practices, although his help will be needed in other projects, such as fish screens as well. Warren has the ideal combination of having been raised in the Scott Valley, an education in range and resource management, and tremendous enthusiasm for the whole resource conservation field.

The CRMP funding also helped fund an AmeriCorps volunteer, Ted Hermansen, who helped with the implementation of the Etna High School Resource Educational project. Ted helped Sue Maurer, the contracted project coordinator, with classroom presentations and coordination of field trips.

### **Funding Sources**

The Klamath Fisheries Restoration Program is the principal funding source for the CRMP. In addition, as mentioned, the California Department of Conservation has funded the organization of subwatershed landowner groups and some video equipment for the educational purposes. The California Department of Fish and Game has committed \$20,000 to CRMP for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

### **Subcommittees**

The CRMP subcommittees have continued to accomplish much of the roll-up-the-sleeves work which requires particular expertise and attention to detail. All committees are currently working on incorporating the individual plans into the *Scott River Watershed Action Plan*, which will follow the Klamath Fisheries Task Force's *Format for Subbasin Plans*. An update of the committees and what they have accomplished this year follows:

#### Standing Committees

The **Water Committee** has reviewed, revised, and submitted to the CRMP Council the *Fall Flows Action Plan* several times in the last two years. The last time was in May. One CRMP member, despite being involved in the word-smithing of the plan through the whole process and the Water Committee's repeatedly trying to address his concerns without adding any untruths to the plan, refuses to approve the plan. This situation is delaying the over-all planning effort to draft a *Scott River Subbasin Action Plan* in the Klamath Task Force approved format. The Water Committee presently has a meeting planned to try again to address the concerns of the individual, specifically to draft a 1999-2000 action plan on improving fall flows.

The **Upland Committee** has written the *Upland Management Action Plan*, which received CRMP approval in early 1998. The committee is presently developing a project proposal which will entail determining an upland baseline condition and experimenting with the effects on water release of vegetative management in upland brush and juniper

areas. That proposal will hopefully be submitted for Jobs-in-the-Woods funding, and it incorporates California Department of Forestry participation along with the landowners.

The **Fisheries/Habitat/Riparian Committee** has met consistently throughout the year and makes regular recommendations to the CRMP for projects and management. The committee is presently working toward putting their plan into the *Format for Subbasin Plans*.

The **Agriculture Committee** has not been very active for this period of time. There is concern over members who represent agricultural concerns not attending CRMP meetings regularly and not being proactive in the Ag Committee.

#### Temporary Committees

Although the **Bylaws Committee** has not been meeting this year. The *Bylaws* have been approved and are presently in effect as approved.

The **Monitoring Committee** has been very active this year in developing both project and program monitoring plans. The *Project Monitoring Plan* has been developed and is being applied to projects. Although program monitoring is taking place and a proposal to expand it has been submitted, funding has not yet been acquired to carry it out.

The Monitoring Committee sponsored a Monitoring Roundtable in February 1999 for the purpose of clarifying what the watershed groups need to be monitoring in order to obtain the baseline and comparative information for TMDL's and Endangered Species requirements.

The **Plan Committee** has been inactive over the last eight months.

The **Priority Watershed Selection Committee** lost its impetus to determine a process for selecting a priority watershed for focusing CRMP projects. There was a great deal of frustration over the complexity of the process and lack of satisfaction with the results.

The **Tailings Committee** is reactivating after two years because some funding has been obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for a project in that area.

A **Technical Committee** has been formed to develop a project proposal rating process to help decide on which projects for which to seek funding. The process was used in April for the last round of proposals and is currently being revised somewhat. The addition to this step in project prioritization was very helpful to the process because, although the CRMP voting members still make the ultimate decision, the Technical Committee's guidance gives them some confidence that they are choosing the projects, which will best serve the needs of anadromous fish.

## EDUCATION/OUTREACH

### **Educational/informational News Articles:** (See Section #4)

**Fair Booth:** A Siskiyou County fair booth will be set up for August 1999. The booth, because of the fair theme, will emphasize the history of conservation in the Scott River watershed and specifically that which has been done by the Siskiyou RCD (turning 50 years old this year) and the Scott River Watershed CRMP.

### **Invited Speakers at regular meetings:**

The following list of speakers addressed the public and CRMP Council at regular meetings:

**Larry Alexander, NorCET:** Explained the two South Fork road inventory protocols, that of the landowners and that of the USFS and how they can be integrated.

**Alex Dykema, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy:** Spoke on the land protection opportunities of land trusts and some possible tax benefits.

**Jay Perkins, USFS, and Ted Tzdama, CDF,** offered information on fire ecology and the role of controlled burns. Ted also provided information on the latest CDF program to reduce fuel hazards and/or to improve wildlife habitat or range quality.

**Newsletters:** One newsletter was published in January 1999. Another edition will be published at the end of July 1999 (See Section #4).

### **Workshops:** (See related documents in Section #5)

- The **Ranch and Watershed Planning Course**, held February 22, March 1, and March 15, 1999 (three evenings) was the second such course offered by Dr. Dan Drake, UC Extension, and Randy Seelbrede, NRCS. Ten landowners attended. The course was expanded over the last round as a monitoring piece was added. The CRMP is planning on sponsoring another such course in fall 1999.
- The **Fish Faire** was organized by the CRMP's Fish Committee. It was held on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Fort Jones Elementary School. It was comprised of multiple booths indoors which addressed fish biology, amphibians, predators, spawning surveys, fish scales, fly-tying, macroinvertebrates, water temperature monitoring, and fish prints. Outdoors was fly-casting and a giant fish tent along with costumes for children. AmeriCorps persons and a guest Native American told fish and other wildlife stories in the tent. The children paraded several times in their animal costumes.

## **Landowner Outreach**

### Subwatershed Landowner Groups

The CRMP Coordinator has been facilitating three subwatershed landowner groups, Shackleford/Mill, Moffett Creek, and most recently one on the South Fork of the Scott. Funding from the California Department of Conservation has provided the opportunity to bring these groups together and help them to be more involved in the planning and project development in their watersheds. The Tailings Landowner Group will also be reactivated under this program. Each group is at a different stage of developing an informal plan for their own subwatershed.

## **PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Goals and Objectives**

The Long Term Goal of the CRMP is to “Seek coordinated resource management in the Scott River watershed which will produce maintain a healthy and productive watershed and community.”

Each of the individual plans produced by the various committees and approved by the CRMP contains its own short-term goals and objectives. A summary of those goals is as follows:

FALL FLOWS GOAL: Work for adequate flows in the Scott River system to protect the migration, spawning and rearing needs of salmon and steelhead stocks while also protecting other beneficial uses.

FISH RESOURCE GOAL: Seek to restore genetically viable, self-sustaining populations of salmon and steelhead fish in the Scott River watershed.

AGRICULTURE GOAL: Continue a cooperative working relationship with farmers and ranchers to maintain a healthy and productive watershed within the Scott Valley, while continuing to incorporate proven techniques that are beneficial to both agriculture and fish.

UPLAND MANAGEMENT GOALS: Seek to coordinate the resource management of upland areas using subwatershed groups to accomplish objectives.

### **Watershed Planning**

It is the hope of the Scott River Watershed CRMP Council that the CDFG will fund the development of the Scott River Subbasin Action Plan. If that funding is acquired, an



outside consultant working closely with the CRMP will draft an action plan by bringing together all the available data and pertinent information in the present set of plans written by the various CRMP committees as well as gather existing data from other sources. The Scott River Subbasin Action Plan will be written in the format devised by the TWG and Subbasin Coordinators. The purpose is to have a plan which will give better guidance in prioritizing projects.

In the meantime, the CRMP Coordinator is working within the Humboldt State Natural Resource Planning Group to help identify a planning/GIS project. The subbasin coordinators are participating in a prioritization process which begins with a more general planning process. The planning process, directed by Yvonne Everett, HSU Natural Resource Planning Group, is helpful in beginning the drafting of the Subbasin Action Plan.

#### Present Plans (Section #2)

*Fish Population and Habitat Plan*

*1998 Five-Year Work Plan*

*Upland Management Plan*

*Fall Flows Water Action 1995 (1999DRAFT also included)*

*Agricultural Committee's Goals, Objectives, and Plan of Action*

#### **CRMP Projects and their Status (See section entitled "Project List")**

In addition to the projects listed in the project list, the CRMP (Lorrie Bundy) has, with the help of the NRCS (Ayn Perry) completed a set of cross-sectional surveys which can be compared to those done in 1989 by Sari Sommarstrom and to some surveys done in 1969 by Alvin Lewis (SCS). The plotted surveys can be found in the Siskiyou RCD office.

The ever-allusive project map showing projects and the fenced off portions of the river is in the process of being done with Jennifer Silveira's help.

The CRMP Coordinator and an AmeriCorps steward have continued the historical video project by filming one group session and one more individual interview of community elders so as not to lose the valuable information they hold in their memories about the historical state of resources in the Scott River watershed. In addition, the AmeriCorps steward, Paloma Galindo, has developed one of the previous interview videos, Orel Lewis, into an half-hour TV program for the local TV station. She added music and old photos. A copy of that video along with all the other interviews is housed at the Siskiyou RCD office.

**CRMP Funding** (See Budget Summary and copies of invoices in section #8)

The CRMP VI funding cycle (\$39,890) from the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force has sustained the CRMP activities from October 1998 to May 31, 1999. The CRMP coordinator has used funding obtained from the California Department of Conservation \$6,000 for equipment and facilitation of subwatershed landowner groups.

**CONCLUSION**

The CRMP has moved forward in many ways, as can be seen by this report. However, the group is currently in a precarious state. The general trend over the eight months since last October has been one of members attending less. Many long-time representatives have recently dropped. Since the recently approved *Bylaws* require that members attend regularly or loose their membership, many former members are on the verge of losing membership for lack of participation. The Coordinator is currently writing a letter to send out to members requesting a clarification of their desired status. Some new blood has come into the process which may save it from total burnout. Whether or not it will be enough to keep the process rolling, only time will tell.